NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
BACKGROUNDER NO. 1-0259 FEBRUARY 27, 1976
WAYNE COREY/BANGKOK

NEW MALAYSIAN KING

ANNCR:

ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 MALAYSIA FORMALLY INSTALLS A NEW KING IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR A ROTATING MONARCHY. WAYNE COREY HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT FROM VOA'S SOUTHEAST ASIAN BUREAU.

VOICE:

THE NEW YANG DIPERTUAN AGONG, OR PARAMOUNT RULER OF MALAYSIA, WILL BE THE FIFTY-NINE YEAR OLD SULTAN OF KELATAN STATE, TUANKU YAHYA PETRA. HE SUCCEEDS TUANKU ABDUL HALIM WHO WAS SULTAN OF KEDAH STATE. ACCORDING TO MALAYSIA'S CONSTITUTION, THE MONARCH IS CHOSEN EVERY FIVE YEARS FROM AMONG THE NINE MALAY SULTANS.

THE YANG DIPERTUAN AGONG CONVENES AND DISSOLVES PARLIAMENT, APPOINTS THE PRIME MINISTER AND A CABINET AND NAMES THE HEADS OF FOUR STATES WHICH HAVE NO MALAY RULERS. HE ALSO APPROVES BILLS PASSED BY PARLIAMENT, APPOINTS JUDGES, GRANTS AWARDS AND PARDONS, AND SERVES AS SUPREME COMMANDER OF MALAYSIA'S ARMED FORCES.

IF ALL OF THIS IS CONSIDERED TO BE TOO MUCH FOR THE MONARCH, HE MAY RESIGN AT ANY TIME. OR IF THERE IS DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS RULE, A CONFERENCE OF MALAY RULERS MAY REMOVE HIM FROM THE THRONE.

THE PAGENTRY OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE MONARCH IN BRITAIN OR IN THAILAND WILL BE DISPLAYED IN KUALA LUMPUR SATURDAY WHEN THE NEW KING AND QUEEN TRAVEL IN AN OFFICIAL PROCESSION FROM

THE NATIONAL PALACE TO THE TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN HALL FOR THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY. A STATE BANQUET WILL BE HELD SATURDAY NIGHT AND SPECIAL EVENTS HAVE BEEN PLANNED FOR THE PEOPLE. BUT LIKE BRITAIN'S QUEEN ELIZABETH AND THAILAND'S KING PHUMIPHON, THE MALAYSIAN KING'S ROYAL FESTIVITIES WILL NOT BE ON THE SAME SCALE AS THOSE OF EARLIER YEARS. INFLATION, IT SEEMS, RESPECTS NO ONE.

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